

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification as amended below with replacement paragraphs shows added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 7, with the following paragraph:

First, by reference to FIG. 1, a robot RB is disposed in an area for installation of the robot and operating areas are prepared on left and right opposite sides of the installation area. In the left operating area (hereafter also referred to as an operating area 1), operation of taking out workpieces (not shown) housed in a workpiece container CN1 is carried out by the robot RB. In the right operating area (hereafter also referred to as ~~a-working~~ operating area 2), operation of taking out workpieces (not shown) housed in a workpiece container CN2 is carried out. The robot RB successively grasps the workpieces in the workpiece container CN1 or CN2 with a hand (not shown), carries them to a position above a slide SL, and places them on the slide SL. The slide SL sends the workpieces placed on the slide SL into an operating area (not shown) for a next step.